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Action

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 495, DECEMBER 18, 6 P.M.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 495, BONN 440, PARIS 109, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

POLAD USAREUR SENT BY OTHER MEANS.

PARIS PASS THURSTON AND WEST AND HILLENBRAND.

OCB

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PARIS DEC 14 AND 16 COMMUNIQUE WERE UNIVERSALLY WELL RECEIVED BY PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS. COMMUNIQUE EASED LINGERING DOUBTS RE WESTERN DETERMINATION REMAIN IN BERLIN AND THEREFORE HAD REASSURING EFFECT ON BERLIN MORALE. OPINION GENERALLY EXPRESSED THAT PENDING WESTERN COUNTER-MOVES ON BROADER ASPECTS GERMAN PROBLEM (WHICH MAJORITY BERLIN LEADERS FEEL IS ONLY WAY DEAL WITH CURRENT SITUATION) COMMUNIQUE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT COULD NOW BE EXPECTED. APPARENT DISCREPANCY IN GERMAN VS. FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF DECEMBER 14 COMMUNIQUE (BERLINTEL 490 TO DEPT, 436 TO BONN) STILL TROUBLES SOME LEADERS BUT THEY REASSURED BY UNANIMITY OF DEC 16 COMMUNIQUE. SOME STATED THEY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY FORCEFUL NATO LANGUAGE.

GOVERNING MAYOR TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE FULLY SATISFIED WITH NATO COMMUNIQUE. WESTERN NOTE, HE THOUGHT, SHOULD CONTAIN FULL REPUDIATION SOV HISTORIC DISTORTIONS AND PRESENTATION ALLIED LEGAL POSITION. SPD DEPUTY MATTICK EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TOUGHNESS OF NATO LANGUAGE UNEXPECTED BY COMMUNISTS AND THOUGHT HE DETECTED SOFTER TONE IN YESTERDAY'S AND TODAY'S EAST PRESS. MATTICK SUGGESTED WESTERN NOTES SHOULD STRESS THAT DIVISION OF BERLIN DID NOT DATE FROM 1948 BUT WAS STARTED BY SOVS IN 1947 WHEN THEY ILLEGALLY AND UNCONSTITUTIONALLY REMOVED MAYORS ELLA KAY AND KURT EXNER OF PRENZLAUER BERG DISTRICT.

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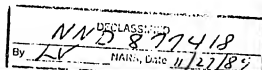
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-2- 495, DECEMBER 18, 6 P.M., FROM BERLIN

INTERIOR SENATOR LIPSCHITZ ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH COMMUNIQUE AND RESULTANT IMPROVEMENT WEST BERLIN MOOD, BUT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER MORALE LEVEL COULD BE MAINTAINED IN FACE CONTINUING CORROSIVE EFFECTS OF SIX MONTHS "ULTIMATUM" PERIOD. FOR THIS REASON, HE WILL GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON "COLD WAR" TACTICS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THOSE BOOKING AIR PLANE RESERVATIONS OR MOVING VANS FOR NEXT SPRING ARE PLAYING INTO COMMUNISTS' HANDS. SPD PRESS CHIEF HESSE SAID HE FAVORS PARTY TAKE SOBERLY OPTIMISTIC LINE, POINTED OUT THAT BRANDT IN 5 STATEMENTS DURING LAST THREE DAYS HAD SAID FIRST STEP SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN IN PARIS BUT SITUATION REMAINS SERIOUS. GRAVITY MUST BE EMPHASIZED FROM TIME TO TIME, HESSE SAID, TO PREVENT RAPID DETERIORATION OF MORALE IF FURTHER SURPRISE SOV MOVES SHOULD BRING ABOUT NEW "TEST OF NERVES".

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